

AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraphs on lines 7-24 of page 1 with the following:

-- This application claims the priority benefit of U.S. Patent Application 08/979,742, filed November 26, 1997, now abandoned.

Incorporated herein by reference in their entirety and for all purposes are the following: U.S. Patent Applications 08/979,742; 08/974,549; and 08/974,584; PCT Applications PCT/US97/17618 and PCT/US97/17885; and U.S. Patent Applications 08/915,503, 08/912,951, 08/911,312, 08/854,050, 08/851,843, 08/846,017, 08/844,419, and 08/724,643.

This invention was made with United States Government support under Grant No. HD/CA 34880, awarded by the National Institutes of Health. The United States Government has certain rights in the invention. --

Please amend the claims as follows:

Sub E27
20. *(Amended)* An isolated, purified or recombinant polynucleotide encoding a telomerase reverse transcriptase protein, wherein said protein:

(i) has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ. ID NO:2; and,
(ii) has telomerase catalytic activity when associated with telomerase

D2
RNA.

21. *(Amended)* The polynucleotide of claim 20, wherein the encoded telomerase reverse transcriptase protein has an amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO:2.

D3
28. *(Amended)* A mouse cell in which an endogenous telomerase reverse transcriptase gene in the cell has been mutated by recombinant means, or progeny of said cell.